

Abstract

REPORT NO

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
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REPORT NO.

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1. Information [] of 1947 places the Buhevo mine which is approximately 20 kilometers east of Sofia on the top of Mount Gotem. From two openings on the top of the peak between 100-200 carloads of ore are being taken daily. There is said to be not more than 3,000-5,000 carloads (150,000-200,000 tons) remaining in the mine, sufficient to keep the mine going for only a month. About 100 unskilled Bulgarian laborers are employed on each of three shifts per 24 hours. The ore is taken to the railway station at Kremikovski and is loaded on flatcars and sent to the USSR. A review of the history of the mine mentions specimens of ore (shown by analysis to be low grade) sent to Belgium and France by the Bulgarian government before World War II, and a visit in late 1941 or early 1942 by one Prof. Dr. Ster, reportedly a German uranium expert, who showed no further interest in the mine after stating that the mineral which was being produced was of little value. In January 1946 a Russian mineralogist named Snakev (phonetic) came from Moscow to survey the mine and within 24 hours after he began his work the entire area was blanked off. He pronounced the ore rich in uranium and since then the entire production has been sent to the USSR.

2. [] 1947 states that uranium mining has been done at both Buhoce locations (20 kilometers east of Sofia, and 25 kilometers north, but most recently at the former) but that work had ceased at both places in March or April 1946 according to a rumor. This report confirmed the fact that all ore mined was sent to the USSR, but that it went by truck to Sofia and then by rail to a port. Another known location of uranium mining is Streltso, but as of August 1947 no uranium of any value had been found there, and none had left the area. It is said that there is little in the way of mineral deposits on the beaches of Varna but considerable amounts of magnetic iron ore containing a mixture of thorium and cerium are on the beach near Burgas and were exploited between 1942-44 by Montecatini of Italy who brought in two small magnetic separators and processed 200-300 tons of ore which was sent to Italy.

8. [] 1947 reports Soviet specialists excavating radium and uranium ore about 15 kilometers north of the Yana station near Makotsevo. The Bulgarian population of neighboring villages had been evacuated and access to the area was forbidden.

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25X1 4. [] 1947 mentions a refinery for the Buheve mine being enlarged from 12 cylinders to 16 cylinders. The cylinders were allegedly for use in refining uranium ore.

25X1 5. [] 1948 confirms previous data that the uranium mines at Buheve are still being exploited and that the ore is loaded onto freight cars destined for the USSR.

6. A sample of ore allegedly of the type mined at Buheve was submitted in June 1948 and assayed only a 0.004% U_3O_8 equivalent against pitchblende standards. No evidence of any uranium minerals which could produce this small amount of radioactivity was found and it may be due to the potassium content in the country rock which composed most of the sample.

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